critical digest

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March 20, 1957 Vol IX No 18 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest-10th yr-$25 a year

This Week

A Eugene O'Neill play manuscript, believed destroyed in 1953, was uncovered at Yale University library by Karl Ragnar Gierow, director of Royal Dramatic Theatre, Stockholm. More Stately Mansions typewritten manuscript has been at the library since 1951. Gierow will cut the ten hour play by four or five hours and will present it in Stockholm next season. A Touch of the Poet, another unpublished O'Neill script, will be presented by the Swedish director March 28.

Plays

The Sin of Pat Muldoon closed after 5 performances... Long Day's Journey may suspend for 6 week's after Paris Festival trip July 8, it would then re-open Aug 19... Major Barbara in last 9 weeks ... Moon for the Misbegotten moved opening date to May 2 Wendy Hiller in lead... Hide and Seek set for April 2 debut at Barrymore... Liza to open April 2 at Belasco... Hotel Paradiso moved debut to April 11, is having polishing on second act and plans to move in a new featured player from London cast... Two new sketches to be added to Ziegfeld Follies. My Fair Lady authors threatening suit against former show for alleged infringement of copyright on satires.

Players

Mindy Carson stars in City Center revival of South Pacfic April 24... Ralph Richardson returned to Waltz of Toreadors... Burton Rascoe, former World-Telegram critic, died at age 64 of heart attack.

Calendar

Orpheus Descending-Martin Beck 3/21. Producers Theatre presents Tennesee Williams play with Maureen Stapleton, Cliff Robertson, Harold Clurman director... Electra-Theatre Marquee-3/26 Second in "Trojan Trilogy" repertory... Brigadoon- City Center 3/27. NYC Theatre Company second musical production. With Robert Rounseville, Helen Gallagher, Sloan Simpson.... A Land Beyond River-Greenwich Mews 3/28. New play by Lofton Michell, directed by Michael Howard.

Summer Playhouses

The Pajama Game will open the 9th season of St. John Terrell's Music Circus at Lambertville, NJ, June 1 with a 4 week run... New Faces, Leonard Sillman's package with members of original cast, to start 12 week tour May 4 at Bucks County Playhouse... An Evening of T. C. Jones will tour summer circuit sponsored by Leonard Sillman... 19th season of Louisville, Ky, Iroquois Amphitheatre musicals opens July 8.

Other Broadways

My Fair Lady national company with Brian Ahere and Anne Rogers opened tour in Rochester, NY... No Time For Sergeants to tour starting in summer under sponsorship of Broadway Theatre League, a subsidiary of Columbia Artists. Company booked for 40 weeks.

Theatre TV Notes

CBS Studio One to present The Traveling Lady April 22 with Kim Stanley... Wonderful Town to be presented next season on NBC.

Digests of Current NYC Theatre Reviews

The Duchess of Malfi-Phoenix 3/19. 4 pro-Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post, World Telegram & Sun-and 3 cons- Times, News, Journal American, filed on John Houseman's production of John Webster's Elizabethan play. Wide diversity in reviews. Kerr, Herald Tribune, raved complimenting all involved in presenting blood-curling production. Three other pro votes on mild sides, aisle-sitters recommending revival for serious students only. Coleman, Mirror, warned that play is not for sqeamish, but is a worthwhile production. Watts, Post, and Donnelley, WT&S, felt that play held interest inspite of some casting they didn't agree with. Jacqueline Brookes and Earle Hyman fared better in reviews than did Hurd Hatfield, Joseph Wiseman and Pernell Roberts. Jack Landau directed. Outright pan filed by Atkinson, Times, who thought the direction and production studied, the actors indifferent, and the variety of costumes confusing. Coleman, Mirror, also panned costumes of Saul Bolasni, that were suppossed to be vaguely modern. Duchess of Malfi without ferocity and bombast is not very interesting, summed up Times man. A windy bore, added Chapman, News.

The Beggar's Opera- City Center 3/13. 2 pro votes-News and World-Telegram & Sun-and 5 Cons filed on first musical presentation of NYC Theatre season. Shirley Jones and Jack Cassidy featured in revival of John Gay's classic in Cambridge Festival production. McHarry, News, found it a relaxed, audibly beautiful adaption, making an enjoyable, worthwhile evening. Peper, WT & S, billed it as a pleasantly rowdy evening out of the indestructible museum piece. Dissenters found musical written in 1728 dull. Most noted that modern version of same tale in Three Penny Opera was better. As tasteless as stock operetta, concluded Atkinson, Times. A fine opportunity to do something memorable has been lost and a loose, heavy-handed performance results instead in merely a second-rate musical show, Times reviewer added. Production staged by Richard Baldridge is largely a matter of pretty pictures, fears Kerr, Herald Tribune. Listless replica, noted Coleman, Mirror. Charmingly pathetic is label applied by Kastendieck, Journal American. Poorly directed and indifferently acted, panned Watts, Post.

The Sin of Pat Muldoon- Cort 3/13- 3/17. 7 cons and 5 performances conclude the brief record of John McLiam's new play starring James Barton, presented by Richard Adler and Roger L. Stevens. Most admitted idea of play was interesting, but approach was amateurish. Though James Barton gives a splendid performance as the man turned against religion, the play is sprawling and diffusing, Funke, Times, vetoed. Second act windup of Elaine Stritch is the sole dramatic moment of evening, noted Kerr, Herald Tribune. Chapman, News, found it excessively sentimentally and disjointed fabrication for amateurs. Boring drama filed with cliches, added Coleman, Mirror. Good intentions mean nothing in dull play, points out Watts, Post. Though Donnelley, WT&S, discovered the characters engaged his sympathy, he play struck him as depressing and rather monotonous. The sin in the title is the sin against James Barton, Elaine Stretch and the opening night audience, panned McClain, Journal American.

The Trojan Women- Theatre Marquee -110 E 59- 3/18. 2 mild votes-Post, Journal American – and 4 con votes listed on first program in Trojan Trilogy repertory. Herridge, Post, and McClain, Journal American, recommended it only for serious drama students who want to see the Euripides play presented. Wayne Richardson direction is lifeless, Post editor agreed with dissenters. Dissenters panned both director and cast for bad production of important classic drama. Actors have tendency to mumble, throwing away last half of sentences, and postures of some actors are bad, while the groupings are perfunctory, panned Atkinson, T imes. Draft direction, acting merely mannered, noted Kerr, Herald Tribune. Group lacks resources to do play justice. Olive S Deering and Elizabeth Townsend were okayed by Donnelley, WT&S, but he found nothing else to approve.

London Theatre

Plays

Camino Real presented in April by International Playwrights Theatre is first production of group composed of Peter Hall, Toby Rowland, Campbell Williams, Lars Schmidt. Group will produce plays by writers of international repute, and later hope to commission new plays by promising playwrights. Peter Hall will be director of all productions.

Two productions of Titus Andronicus will be presented in London this season. Old Vic will present it April 23, Walter Hudd directing, and the Peter Brook version with Laurence Olivier will be seen later in season... Yvonne Arnaud to star in Invitation to the Board by Robert Morley, produced by Robin Fox... Paul Scofield to star in unnamed new Rodney Ackland play presented by Frith Banbury.

Club Theatres

Tea and Sympathy to be next production at New Watergate-Comedy Theatre series, opening in April with Elizabeth Sellars in lead... Sartre's IN Camera will be presented by Studio Players at Mahatma Gandi Hall.

London Calendar

Mar 19- Tom-New Lindsay... Mar 20-School for Wives, Theatre Royal, Stratford... Mar 28-Damn Yankees-Coliseum ... Apr 1-The Teenagers-Palladium... Apr 9- Victor Borge-Palace... Apr 25-Tea and Sympathy- Comedy.

For Stage Struck Only

* This weekly NYC newsletter digests--Complete theatre news(page 1), reviews of all openings (page 2), comments by critics (page 6.)

* Plus NYC critics suggestions on theatre books, records. (page 7.)

* Plus Off Broadway and Full Summer Theatre coverage (page 7). London (page 3.)

* Plus complete business & critical data on all current shows(page 4 & 5.)

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CRITICAL DIGEST---139 E 47, NYC.

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Mar 20,1957 PLAYGOERS GUIDE chart of CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47,NYC- EL 5-6894

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This weekly chart of CRITICAL DIGEST, the weekly NYC theatre newsletter, presents up-to-date data on current business and critical reception of all current Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. Subscribers to CRITICAL DIGEST may write or phone for any other specfic data or for late reviews.

"C"- Critics- figures refer to percentage of PRO reviews filed by NYC daily drama critics. PRO means show was recommended as entertaining and/or stimulatng, not if critic predicted if show would run or not.

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales of past week and preceding weeks. "%" B- figures- refer to past week's attendance. "Cap." -figures refer to capacity of house. Figures that follow are gross estimates by Variety for past week and preceding weeks. All figures are in thousands of dollars. Thus "Cap $45--$43 $41 $43--" means that capacity of house is $45,000, last week's sales $43,000, previous week $41,000, etc.

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AUNTIE MAME Broadhurst $5.75	238 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C -Mostly for R. Russell, 0% minus her 100% B- Cap $43--$43 $43 $43 $43 $43 $43 $43 $43
BELLS ARE RINGING Shubert $7.50	230 W 44 CI 6-5990	80% C- 2 Con show- Times, WT &S, 100% Judy 100% B - Cap $55--$55 $55 $55 $55 $55 $55 $55
DIARY ANNE FRANK Ambassador $5.75	229 W 49 CO 5-1855	100% C · Unanimous praise Pulitizer prizer 50% B- Cap $35--$13 $15- just moved from Cort
DAMN YANKEE 46th St $8.05	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	100% C- Unanimous praise cast & music 60% B- Cap $50--$33 $34 $41 $34 $34 $37 $41
HAPPIEST MILLION. Lyceum $5.75	150 W 45 JU 2-3897	60% C- 3 Cons- Trib, Post, J. Am 85% B- Cap $26-- $21 $21 $25 $23 $23 $23 $23
HAPPY HUNTING Majestic $8.05	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C- for Merman-10% C-Mir, sole pro show 100% B- Cap $70--$70 $70 $70 $70 $70 $70 $70
HOLE IN HEAD Plymouth $6.25	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	40% C- 3 Pro- Times, Post, J. Am. 85% B- Cap $37-- $31
HOLIDAY LOVERS Longacre $5.75	250 W 48 CI 6-5639	20% C- 2 Pro- Post. J. Am 75% B- Cap $29-- $20 $18 $23
INHERIT WIND National $5.75	208 W 41 PE 6-8220	90% C- Funke, Times, sole con vote 65% B- Cap $30--$23 $21 $27 $22 $21 $25 $25
LIL ABNER St James. $8.05	235 W 44 LA 4-4664	60% C- 3 Cons- Trib, J. Am. WT & S 100% B- Cap $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58
LONG DAYS Hayes $6.90	230 W 46 CI 6-6380	100% C- Raves for Oneill play and players 95% B- Cap $30--$27 $29 $30 $30 $30 $30 $30 $30
MAJOR BARBARA Morosco $6.90	245 W 45 CI 6-6230	70% C- 2 Con- Times, Tribune 65% B- Cap $37--$23 $24 $31 $28 $29 $31 $31
MIDDLE NIGHT ANTA $5.75	250 W 52 CI 6-8870	20% C- 2 Pro Play-Mir, J. Am- 100% C-Robinson 70% B- Cap $40--$23 $25 $33 $26 $28 $27 $31
MOST HAPPY FELLA Imperial $7.50	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	90% C- 1 Con- Herald Tribune 60% B- Cap $57-- $38 $48 $57 $48 $50 $54 $57
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05	1655 Bway PL 7-7064	100% C- Unanimous praise for musical-cast- 100% B- Cap $68--$68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68
NO TIME SGTS Alvin $5.75	249 W 52 CI 5-5226	100% C- Unanimous praise for soldier-cast 70% B- Cap $38--$24 $26 $36 $30 $30 $30 $32
POTTING SHED Bijou $5.25	209 W 45 JU 6-5442	100% C- Unanimous praise for play-cast 90% B- Cap $20--$18 $18 $19 $18 $17 $17
SEPARATE TABLES Music Box $5.75	239 W 45 CI 6-4636	100% C- Unanimous praise for Eng. twin-bill 85% B- Cap $31--$25 $25 $28 $26 $27 $28 $28
TUNNEL OF LOVE Royale $5.75	239 W 45 CI 6-8870	30% C- 2 Pro- Herald Tribune, News 95% B- Cap $34--$32 $32 $34 $34
VISIT S.PLANET Booth $5.75	231 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- Mostly for Ritchard-Mayehoff antics 100% B- Cap $27--$27 $27 $27 $27 $27
UNCLE WILLIE Golden $5.75	252 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- Skulnik, 0% C- minus him 60% B- Cap $24--$13 $15 $19 $14 $15 $17 $19
WALTZ TOREADORS Coronet $5.75	259 W 49 CI 6-8870	90% C- 1 Con - World-Telegram & Sun 60% B- Cap $35--$17 $27 $26 $27 $27 $27
ZIEGFELD FOLLIES W.Garden $8.05	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	60% C- 4 Pro Lillie only-News, Mir, Post, J. Am. 80% B- Cap $63-- $48

"RATINGS OF NYC CRITICS"

1956-57 season ratings of NYC drama critics on CURRENT Broadway shows by CRITICAL DIGEST. "%%" figures are percentages of pro votes in comparison to con votes on current shows. Variety 1955-56 and 1954-55 season figures are percentages of favorable reviews for entire season.

24 shows	CD %%	Pros	Cons	Variety 1955-56	1954-55
Atkinson, Times	70%	18	6	.490	.607
Kerr, H. Trib	75%	17	7	.394	.354
Chapman, News	90%	22	2	.527	.580
Coleman, Mirror	85%	20	4	.454	.566
Watts, Post	90%	22	2	.541	.426
McClain, J. Amer.	95%	21	3	.535	.532
Donnelley, WT &S	75%	17	7	.306	.549

*(Hawkins 1955)

" OFF BROADWAY "

ANATOMIST Royal $3	62 E 4 GR 5-9647	2 Con- Times, Post
BOX WATERCOLORS Bway Chapel	56 & Bway CI 7-0387	1 Pro- WomenWear 2 Con- Times, Variety SUNS only at 5 PM
DOCTOR FAUSTUS Blackfrars $2.60	316 W 57 CI 7-0236	3 Pro-Times, J. American, Women Wear 2 Con- Post, Variety
DOCTOR INSPITE OF Tempo	4 St Marks	1 Pro- Women Wear 2 Con- Times, Post
EXILES Renata $3.85	144 Bleecker OR 4-3210	3 Pro- Times, Trib, Post 1 Con- WT & S
ICEMAN COMETH Circle $3.60	5 Sher Sq OR 5-9437	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Mir, J. Am, WT & S, Post
IN KING CHARLES Downtown $3.45	85 E 4 OR 3-4412	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, WT&S, Mir, Variety
LADYS NOT FOR Carn Play $3.60	56 & Bway CI 6-6630	4 Pro-Times, Trib, Mir, Post 1 Con- Variety
PURPLE DUST Cherry Lane $3.85	31 Commerce CH 2-4468	4 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, WT & S 2 Con- News, J. Am.
TAKE GIANT STEP Jan Hus $3.45	351 E 74 LY 6-8947	5 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, Women Wear, Variety 1 Con- J. American
3 SYNGE PLAYS T. East $2.80	211 E 60 TE 2-9220	5 Pro-Times, Post, Mir, J. Am, WT & S 1 Con. Trib.
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.85	121 Chris. WA 4-8782	3 Pros-Times, Trib, Post
TROJAN TRILOGY T. Marquee $3.50	110 E 59 PL 3-2576	Trojan Women-2 Mild Pro-J. Am, Post 4 Con-Times, Trib, Mir, WT & S
UTOPIA LDT Shakes. $3.45	264 W 87 SU 7-2277	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, J. Am, WT & S, Mir.
VOLPONE Rooftop $3.60	111 E Houston GR 7-8320	4 Pro-Times, Mir, WT & S, Women Wear 4 Con- Trib, Post, News, Variety
WEDDING IN JAPAN Greystone $3.60	Bway & 91 SC 4-1800	1 Pro- Post 3 Con- Times, WT & S, Women Wear

" THEATRE CALENDAR "

Trojan Women-Theatre Marquee 3/18
Duchess of Malfi-Phoenix 3/19
Shewing of Bianco-Pronvincetown 3/19
Orpheus Descending- Beck 3/21

Brigadoon- City Center 3/27
Landy Beyond River-G. Mews 3/28
Hide and Seek-Barrymore 4/2
Liza- Belasco- 4/2
The Joker- Playhouse 4/4
Minna von Barnhelm-Berkley 4/4

Oscar Wilde- 41st St- 4/8
Salvage- Actors Playhouse 4/9
Apollo of Bellac-Carn. Play 4/9
Hotel Paradiso-Miller 4/11
Shinbone Alley- Broadway 4/13
Wayside- Barb. Plaza 4/18
Liberace- Palace 4/20
Packaged in Paris 4/22

First Gentleman-Beck 4/25
Livin ' the Life- Phoenix 4/25
Rush Hour- Chanin 4/?
Foolin' Ourselves- 4/?

Moon for Misbegotten-Bijou 5/2
Greatest Man Alive-Barrymore 5/8
New Girl in Town- 46th St- 5/9

Kaleisoscope-Provincetown 6/4

The Egghead- 9/26
Romanoff and Juliet 9/2?
Miss Isobel- 12/26

" TV THEATRE PROGRAMS "

Mar 31-CBS- Cinderella by Rodgers and Hammerstein with Julie Andrews
Apr 1- NBC- Great Sebastions with Lunts on Producers Showcase
Apr 8- NBC- Victoria Regina with Claire Bloom on Montgomery Show
Apr 10-NBC- Yeoman of Guard with Alfred Drake on Hallmark
Apr 22- CBS- Traveling Lady with Kim Stanley on Studio One
May 11- NBC- George M. Cohan Story with Mickey Rooney

" CD VIEWS ON CURRENT SHOWS "

PROS: Damn Yankees, Diary Anne Frank, Happiest Millionaire, Hole in Head, Long Days Journey, Most Happy Fella, Potting Shed, Seperate Tables, Tunnel of Love, Uncle Willie, Waltz of Toreadors
Exiles, 3 Irish Plays, Iceman Cometh, Purple Dust, Take Giant Step, In King Charles

CONS: Holiday for Lovers, Middle Night, Ziegfeld Follies
Volpone, Wedding in Japan

GREEN

ROOM

DEPARTMENT

JOSEPHINE HULL OBIT... Late actress was a refined and cultured woman with roots deep in New England genealogy who never created the impression, off-stage, of having any connection with the theatre, recalls McClain, Journal American. She was a truly great trouper who will be long remembered for her gentle and unusual talents.

COLUMN TIPS... Robert Loggia, bounced from a lead role in Orpheus Descending has a 3 year run of play contract, reports Winchell... Rodgers and Hammerstein own the 110 costumes used in TV "Cinderella" and may move show to stage soon, hints Kilgallen.

WED. WORST... Wednesday matinee and evening audiences are the worst and the Saturday trade the best, a survey of actors in NYC legit made by James M. Vicary Co revealed, Variety notes. Rex Harrison, Edith Adams, Charles Laughton were among those who answered the questionnaires sent out to 102 performers, of which 32 were returned.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Exiles production represents one of the ablest off-Broadway jobs Watts, Post, has yet seen... Donnelly, World Telegram & Sun, wonders why playwrights picture lonely women always saying "I can't bear to face my lonesome lamb chop?"... Shaw was sexually neutral and Pygmalion was meant to celebrate the sexlessness of Henry Higgins, points out Lerner, Post. But My Fair Lady had to bring sex back.

DRAMA MAIL BOX... Laurette Taylor and Ruth Draper were two theatre artists of the first magnitude and comparable with Duse or Irving, argues a Times reader... NY audiences would be punctual if theatre curtains went up at announced times, C. D. subscriber admits.

SECOND GUESSES... A Hole in the Head is far from everything it should be as a piece of expert dramatic writing, but its warmth and gusto and some delightful performances turn the balance definitely in its favor, rates Watts, Post... Ziegfeld Follies is just what it sets out to be--a big, lavish girl show with a couple of comedians, notes Chapman, News. It amounts to a popular evening in the theatre. Better a law against eggheads than a law against audience shows.

INTERVIEW HI-LITES... Maureen Stapleton, Orpheus Descending, has made a career of portraying the hot-eyed slatterns that populate Tennessee Williams' southern imagination, but she is not unhappy in her rut, she told Peper, WT & S. She does find herself haunted by the all but over powering specter of Anna Magnani, who Williams' originally wanted for two of the roles. She arrived in NY in 1943, worked as a night typist at the Hotel New Yorker, and then as a lecturer at the Chrysler Exhibit of War Weapons. Her stage debut was made in a revival of Playboy of the Western World... Tommy White, A Hole in the Head, knew that play was a hit as soon as he read the script, the 12 year old actor told Herridge, Post. Though he has had no acting lessons, he has appeared on radio, TV and in the film "Somebody Up There Likes Me."

OFF BROADWAY

Theatre Incorporated, with Roger Stevens as president, will become the parent organization of the Phoenix Theatre. Norris Houghton and T. Edward Hambleton, co-founders of Phoenix, will be retained as managing directors. The new policy will concern itself primarily to revivals of classics.

Minna von Barnhelm by Lessing will be presented in English for the first time in NYC April 8 at Berkley Theatre, 15 Second Avenue(former Open Stage.)...Salvage , a new play by John Seven and Clifford Kraus will be presented April 9 at Actors Playhouse by Joseph Cavellero. Ray Marsh directs cast which includes Mr. Seven, Bill Hindman and Bernie Fein.

Apollo of Bellac bill postponed to April 9 at Carnegie Hall Playhouse... Josh White, Jr. to play star role Sundays in Take a Giant Step, subbing for Louis Gossett. ..Jo Wilder returns to role of Polly Peachum in Three Penny Opera, replacing Paula Stewart...Lady's Not for Burning closes March 31 at Carngie Hall Playhouse...Right You Are closed after two week run at Carl Fischer Hall...Lambs Club to present --And Let Live a mystery by Harry R Irving March 23-26, Wynn Wright director... Kathryn Darrell will devote full time to Equity Community Theatre project.

Five gal Romeo and Juliet presented by Platform Players at Brooklyn Academy, Jack Manning director. Each actress portrayed heroine at different part of her life in play.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS

"Tennessee Day in St. Louis" a new unproduced play by Peter Taylor (Random House) reveals nothing much in the way of theatricl heat, estimates Donnelley, World Telegram & Sun.

"The American Drama Since 1918" by Joseph Wood Krutch(Braziller) okayed as a revised edition of earlier work of same title by Rodo, Variety. Trade mugg does not that book over-emphasis' importance of O'Neill.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS

Johhny Johnson, musical by Kurt Weill, recorded by MGM with Burgess Meredith, Hiram Sherman and Lotte Lenya, was recommended by Variety for an excellent cast which performs the score with vigor and excitement.

TV THEATRE COMMENTS

There Shall Be No Night presented on NBC TV Hallmark with Charles Boyer and Katharine Cornell was panned by majority of TV critics for diverse reasons. Sole pro verdict filed by Gross, News, billing it as an impressive offering. Script was updated and locale moved to Hungary. Temptation to be topical obscured the theme, believed Gould, Times. Play itself is dated, fears Crosby, Herald Tribune. script started with no action at all, but from there on things slowed down, summed Tuck, Post.

" PROS & CONS BY TMK "

The Beggar's Opera is a pleasant, pretty, but dull rendition of the musical comedy classic. Extra handsome sets, costumes and leading players are not enough to offset the routine acting, direction and score. Fans of the musical comedies presented at the City Center can count this as historical education, worth seeing once.

* *

The Trojan Women presented at still another new, comfortable off-Broadway house (Theatre Marquee-110 E 59) is a very poor production of the Euripides drama. It simply lacks spirit in all departments. Group plans an ambitious repertory project and may gain skill with experience.

* *

The Duchess of Malfi is a polite version of one of the bloodiest scripts ever written. Current production lacks the grandeur and gore of Tyrone Guthrie's Tamberlaine . Wide variety of costume styles did not aid. Skills of talented cast wasted in this tame playing.

* *

With the expansive amount of space devoted in daily papers and weekly magazines to NYC legit, it is continually amazing to see how little is given to rememberances of recently deceased stars. This week only McClain, Journal American, wrote of the important stage contribution of Josephine Hull, while only Watts, Post, mentioned the passing of William Johnson.

* *

The "discovery" of the O'Neill script, More Stately Mansions, is of interest to all theatre fans. Though the actual manuscripts of a series of plays were destroyed in 1953, it is more than possible that earlier versions of these plays exist. Who knows what a closer look at that Yale University library shelf may reveal?

* *

Currently 16 Off-Broadway plays are running in NYC, and another half dozen off-Broadway playshops are dark. This means that as of the present accounting there are twenty houses where new and unusual scripts of merit COULD be given a hearing. The pity of the current movement is that too many "producers" stick with tired revivals.

* *

Theatre, Incorporated adopting of Phoenix Theatre enterprises will insure that this worthwhile activity will continue. But it might be hoped that in the future they will let a new play sneak in among their plans for revivals of the classics. The original plays and musicals presented at the Phoenix were among the most fun presented on or Off Broadway in the past several seasons.

* *

If it is "word of mouth" advertising which keeps shows going, and we believe it is, then a wise producer might wisely spend part of his advertising budget in a "whispering campaign."

* *